

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Randy Beckers (30358) on 12/9/2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

a. Change the title to

--- PRINTER AND PRINTING METHOD FOR IMAGE-QUALITY CORRECTION ---

b. In claim 3:

i. Lines 6 & 7 – insert --- isolated --- between reduce and pixel, thus reading --- reduce isolated pixel ---.

c. Replace claim 7 with:

--- A printer for performing correction to improve the quality of images represented by input binary black and white pixel data and for printing the images, comprising:

a first image-quality corrector unit for detecting first irregular patterns that are represented by data included in the black and white pixel data and specific to binary processing (binary coding) to thereby smooth the detected first irregular patterns;

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a second image-quality corrector unit for detecting second irregular patterns that are represented by data included in the input black and white pixel data and specific to an error-variance method, wherein said second image-quality corrector unit detects at least one type of substantially vertical vertical-line irregular patterns, substantially horizontal horizontal-line irregular patterns, and thin-line patchy patterns to thereby smooth the detected second irregular patterns;

a controller unit for operating such that the black and white pixel data input to said first image-quality corrector unit is input to said second image-quality corrector unit to be processed thereby when the black and white pixel data does not match one of the first irregularity detection patterns, and said first image-quality corrector unit is used to process the input black and white pixel data when the black and white pixel data matches one of the first irregularity detection patterns; and

a third image-quality corrector unit for detecting isolated pixels included in said input black and white pixel data, and causing diffusion of the detected isolated pixels into surrounding pixels to thereby reduce isolated pixel dot size; and

wherein said third image-quality corrector unit has a plurality of matrix patterns having different sizes, detects the isolated pixels by use of said matrix patterns in a descending sequence of size, and causes diffusion of the isolated pixels into the surrounding pixels in response to the size of the matrix patterns having said isolated pixels. ---

d. In claim 14:

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- ii. Line 9 – insert --- isolated --- between reduce and pixel, thus reading --- reduce isolated pixel ---.
 - iii. Line 18 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
 - iv. Line 19 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
 - v. Line 20 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
- e. In claim 16:
- i. Line 5 – insert --- isolated --- between reduce and pixel, thus reading --- reduce isolated pixel ---.
 - ii. Line 8 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
 - iii. Line 9 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
 - iv. Line 10 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
- f. In claim 18:
- i. Line 15 – insert --- isolated --- between reduce and pixel, thus reading --- reduce isolated pixel ---.
 - ii. Line 24 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
 - iii. Line 25 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
 - iv. Line 26 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
- g. In claim 19:
- i. Line 9 – insert --- isolated --- between reduce and pixel, thus reading --- reduce isolated pixel ---.

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- ii. Line 17 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
- iii. Line 18 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.
- iv. Line 19 – replace “isolated dots” with --- isolated pixels ---.